

(d) the reasons for delay in granting licences to the remaining applicants; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure early decision on the issue of such licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). A representation regarding delegation of powers to the State Government in the matter of issuing of licence Blood Banks was received from Minister of Health, Kerala on 16.10.95 and reply was also sent to the then Minister of Health, Kerala on 18.12.95. Subsequently, a copy of the same representation was again forwarded by Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala to the Union Health Secretary on 3.5.96.

(c) and (d). Applications for issuance of licences to 41 Blood Banks were received by Drugs Controller General (India). Out of these, 36 licences have been duly approved; for the remaining 5 Blood Banks, licences could not be approved because of basic deficiencies observed due to non-compliance of various parameters as stipulated under Schedule 'F', Part - XII (B) of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules.

(e) There is no delay on the part of the Central Licence Approving Authority (Drugs Controller General India) in approving the licences. However, the Government proposes to strengthen Central Drugs Control Organisation for shouldering the new responsibilities vested under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules and also to expedite the disposal of the cases.

DTC Dying a Reject's Death

1309. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have seen the newsitem captioned 'DTC dying a reject's death' appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated April 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken to rejuvenate the dying DTC;

(d) the considerations which weighed with the then Government in privatising transportation particularly in certain remunerative routes like '620' and host of others;

(e) whether Government will re-examine wholesale privatisation of transportation system in the Capital in the light of complaints received from commuters; and

(f) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although, the financial position of DTC is not satisfactory, it can-not be said that DTC is dying a reject's death as Government is making all out efforts to improve the financial position of DTC.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to rejuvenate DTC :

(i) Introduction of Voluntary Retirement scheme in DTC to reduce its surplus staff;

(ii) Ban on recruitment.

Besides this, Government is continuously monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to improve its functioning and the steps are being taken on continuing basis to increase productivity, reduce cost per km., enforce economic measures, prevent leakage of revenue by effective checking, rationalisation of routes with a view to increasing revenue collection and to reduce the cash losses.

(d) to (f). As the fleet of DTC could not be augmented mainly on account of financial constraints and it was not possible for the DTC to meet the increasing demands of transportation in Delhi, Private Bus System in Delhi was introduced by Transport Department of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to supplement the DTC operation. The Private buses were introduced on each routes in the ratio 40:60 alongwith DTC. Since the introduction of Private Buses was limited to 40% of the total requirement of city buses, the question to re-examine wholesale privatisation of transport system in the Capital does not arise.

Policy on National Defence

1310. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a pressing demand since long for formulation of a long term policy on national defence and security;

(b) if so, whether there have been suggestions for setting up a national security council; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) India has a comprehensive strategic and security policy based *inter alia* on our threat perceptions and the global and regional security environment. This policy is continually under review, in the light of developments which impact on our national security, enabling Government to take all necessary measures to cope with any threat to the security of the nation.

(b) and (c). The National Security Council was set up on 24 August, 1990.